GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HOME AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:67
ANSWERED ON:20.11.2007
ACTIVITIES OF ULFA
Adityanath Yogi Shri ;Pradhan Shri Dharmendra

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item regarding engagement of terrorists on contract by ULFA for suicidal attacks appearing in the 'Dainik Jagaran' dated September 20,2007;

(b) if, so, the details thereof alongwith the reaction of the Government thereto;

(c) whether ULFA has decided to withdraw from the peace process and resume their struggle; and

(d) if so, the details of the steps being taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI V. RADHIKA SELVI)

(a) to (d) : A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (d) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 67 FOR 20.11.2007 REGARDING ACTIVITIES OF ULFA

(a) & (b): Government is aware of the news item in question. Inputs and information received from various sources, from time to time, indicate that ULFA (United Liberation Front of Asom) has links with Jihadi terrorists groups based outside India. It is also a fact that a number of top ULFA leaders are based in Bangladesh.

(c): ULFA had constituted a People's Consultative Group (PCG) in September, 2005 to facilitate peace talks. Towards this end, three rounds of talks were held with PCG between October, 2005 and June, 2006. As a goodwill gesture, Government also declared a unilateral Suspension of Operations against the ULFA from 13.8.06, with the aim of creating a conducive atmosphere to take the dialogue process further. However, ULFA leadership did not come forward for direct talks and there were reports that they were instead trying to regroup and consolidate, and indulging in collection of arms and explosives, extortion, etc., while setting out pre-conditions for talks. Operations against ULFA were, therefore, resumed.

(d): The Government continues to be open to talks, provided the leaders of ULFA abjure violence and come forward directly for talks without pre-conditions, and this has been conveyed to the PCG. However, in view of the continuing mindless violence, killing and extortion, etc. by ULFA and some other groups in the State, systematic and intensive Counter Insurgency (CI) operations are being conducted against the various militant and terrorist groups, including ULFA, in close coordination between the State Government, Central security forces/ agencies and the Army. The position in this regard is being closely and continuously reviewed and monitored at the level of the State Government, and by the Central Government.